Saturday; and the applicants for admission constantly exceed, by twenty or thirty, the number to which the means of accommodation is limited. The school for males is open to the inspection of the public every Monday, between the hours of one and three. For the present year the sums offered for prizes exceed 180*l.* Male school, Somerset-house: morning, 4s.; evening school, 2s.; female school, 2s. The following abstract exhibits the numbers of students in attendance during the month of February last:—

Head school	Somerset-house ..	396
Branch schools..	Spitalfields	190
,,	Coventry	106
,,	Birmingham	257
,,	Manchester	150
,,	Sheffield	47
,,	Nottingham.....	36
,,	York	76
,,	Newcastle	140
,,	Glasgow	360."

Unfortunately this report does not touch the real question at issue—the efficiency, or otherwise, of the present system. Some further information must be elicited on this head, and if it be found that the system has failed to produce a good result an alteration should of course be made.

FONT IN ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, SOUTHAMPTON.

The font in St. Michael's Church, Southampton, represented by the accompanying engravings, strongly resembles that ancient and curious specimen of workmanship in Winchester Cathedral, known as the *crux antiquariorum*, or "the puzzle of the antiquaries." It is of black marble, and alluded to by Sir H. C. Englefield in his "Walk through Southampton," who offers the following comment upon it: "It is curious to observe the effect of time on the black marble of which this font is composed; a vein less hard than the rest runs through one front, and it is quite honey-combed by age, although it probably has always stood under cover."

The font is a square block, having in the centre an hemispherical basin, around the edge of which is a groove (probably sunk to receive a cover or lid); the top is ornamented by a running foliage, rudely carved, the angles being further adorned in the manner shewn by the drawing.

Every side is divided into three sunk circular compartments, charged with figures in low relief, mostly bearing a resemblance, to the one in the centre compartment of the side represented; the figure to the left of the drawing appears to be a dove; that in the centre is supposed to portray a dragon; and in the third compartment the form of an angel is represented, clothed in a long robe, having around the head the *nimbus*, or glory, and with wings extended, that nearly fill the remaining portion of the circle, reaching from the shoulders to the feet, which are naked.

These figures, it is inferred, are emblematical of the saint or archangel, Michael, who is spoken of by St. John as fighting against the dragon and his host, and who is represented as the guardian of the Jewish and Christian churches, and by some imagined to be the Son of God himself.

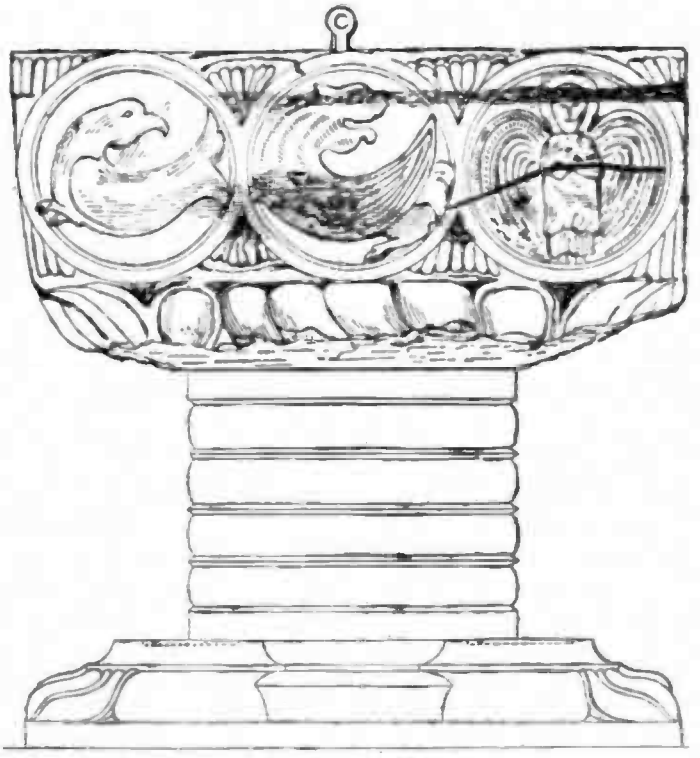
The font was originally supported by five columns, the four at the corners being less in diameter than the centre one, which now only remains. Three broad leaves, one at the angle and one on either side, formed the capital of each of the smaller columns; that part of the base on which the smaller columns stood is sunk to receive them. Two iron eyes are fixed into the top of the font, for the purpose of fastening the cover or lid.

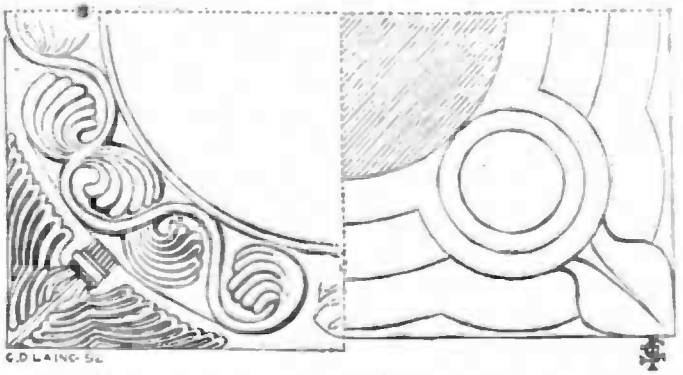
Although great doubts are entertained respecting the age of the font in Winchester Cathedral, Mr. Britton ascribes it to the time of Walkelyn, bishop of Winchester, who died 1097; and, from the similarity between that and the font now described, they may be considered to be coeval.

Southampton. JOHN ELKINGTON GILL.

*** The font in East Meon Church, Hampshire, is another example of the same class of fonts; it resembles that at Winchester so closely, that it is supposed to have been made by the same hand.

FONT IN ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, SOUTHAMPTON.





C.D. LAING Sc.

Plan of Top of Font. *Plan of the Base.*

ARCHITECTURAL MEMS. FROM THE COUNTRY.

The Cotton-Mill Company at Kingston, Hull, have advertised for a site, preparatory to the erection of their proposed extensive factories, &c. The company starts with a capital of 200,000*l.*——A few days since the electric fluid struck the new church at Walton, about three miles from Stafford. The steeple was much injured, a part of the church was unroofed, and two bricks were carried by the lightning through a cottage window, a short distance from the church.——Part of Dublin-street, Edinburgh, under which they are at present excavating the tunnel from Scotland-street to Princes-street, fell in on Thursday morning from the want of sufficient under-props to support the superincumbent earth.——A committee has been appointed at St. John's, Isle of Man, to carry into effect the building of a new church in that district, and the restoration of the ancient chapel. A plan has not yet been adopted; various architects have been invited to supply designs, the committee being desirous of erecting a good architectural edifice.——On Monday week (St. Augustine's day) the consecration of Hedon church, in the diocese of Ripon, took place. The restorations in the chancel consist of new and elaborate oaken stalls; a floor of encaustic tiles, of beautiful pattern; an early English reredos, with illuminated tablets; and a figure of the Saviour, in stained glass.——The new line of railway communication between the Ogwen river and the Menai bridge is in active progress. Workshops are being erected, and operatives are pouring in preparatory to carrying out the contract taken by Messrs. Jackson, at 246,000*l.*——An attempt is being made to raise sufficient funds for the purpose of erecting a new church in Sculcoates, Hull, to be dedicated to St. Paul. A sermon was preached last Sunday by the Bishop of Ripon, in aid of the fund, when 60*l.* was collected. A further sum of 1,500*l.* is required.——A new reredos to the altar of St. George's Church, Stamford, is about to be erected. The design is by Mr. Edward Browing, and the stone will be taken from the new quarry

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